A Certain and True

RELATION

OF THE

Heavenly Enjoyments

AND

Living Testimonies

Of God's Love unto her Soul,

Participated of from the Bountiful Hand of the LORD, and communicated to her in the time of her Weakness of Body.

Declared upon the Dying-Bed of SARAH the Wife of JOHN BECK of *Dockra* in the County of *Westmoreland*, who departed this Life the 13th Day of the 6th Moneth, 1679.

The Souls of the Righteous are precious in the Eyes of the Lord, and they shall be had in Everlasting Remembrance.

Blessed are the Dead which dye in the Lord, even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from ther Labours, and their Works follow them Rev. 14. 13.

Printed in the Year 1680.

Robert Gilson
his Book

A Teſtimony that *Sarah Beck*, the Wife of *John Beck*, did bear and ſignifie of the Love of God, which ſhe was ſenſible of when ſhe was very Weak of Body, and on her DYING-BED.

SHE continued ſeven Weeks and one Day after the Birth of her Daughter *Sarah*; and all the time of her Weakneſs ſhe was very patient, and freely given up and reſign'd to the Will of God, often ſignifying, *She was Content, whether to Live or Dye*; ſaying, *She had ſweet Peace with God.*

And on the *Firſt day* at Night, being the 3d of the 6th Moneth, ſhe was worſe than before; and in the Morning ſhe grew very ill and weak, ſo that it was thought, that ſhe had been gone; and when ſhe recovered, ſhe ſaid, *She was Well; I was very well if I had gone:* But after that ſhe was raiſed by the mighty Power of God many times to praiſe and magnifie the Name of the Lord, ſaying; *Oh, thou pure God! Oh, thou pure God! O thou bleſſed God! O my Saviour! Honoured be thy Name, Praiſed be thy Name, Renowned be thy Name.* And when ſhe had reſted a little, being very weak, ſhe deſired of the Lord, that ſhe might praiſe his Name again, before ſhe departed out of this Tabernacle; and the Lord by his Living Power did raiſe her up in a wonderful manner, contrary to the Expectation of them that were with her; and his Living Preſence did ſurround her, inſomuch that ſhe could not contain, but brake forth into a ſweet Harmony, and ſung Praiſes unto the Lord, even to the tendring and breaking of the Hearts of ſeveral, and true refreſhing of the Souls of the ſenſible Ones, that were with her, who had true Unity with her; yea, ſhe was ſo overcome with the Love of God, and the Joy of that Endleſs Life, (into which ſhe is now entered) that

ſhe cryed forth aloud, *Magnifie the Lord! O Magnifie the Lord! O Magnified be thy Name! O thou God of my Life! Glory to thy Name, thou Helper of* Iſrael; and ſaid, *O Friends! Praiſe the Lord; O Praiſe him, every one of you! for ſurely Heaven is open; I ſee God in his Glory, O! he ſhines: Friends, do you not ſee how God ſhines. O God! thou ſhineſt in thy Beauty of Holineſs! O what a Light is here! ſure Heaven is open: I ſee God on his Glorious Throne, and his holy Angels:* And ſhe ſweetly praiſed the Lord, and ſaid, *O Lord! thou haſt ſatisfied my Soul: I deſired, that I might Praiſe thee, and thou haſt ſatisfied me; Honour, Glory and Halelujahs unto thee: O thou God of my Life! Oh! I feel ſweet Peace and great Joy, Oh! the Joy that is laid up for the Righteous; Oh! who would not but fear the Lord! who would not but be faithful!* And ſhe was taken ill again, and was very Sick, ſo that it was thought ſeveral times, that ſhe had been gone, but the Lord again did raiſe her up; and ſhe would have ſaid aloud, *O Lord! O God! let me Praiſe thy holy Name once more before I depart out of this Tabernacle:* And the Lord did anſwer her earneſt Deſire, and by his Eternal Power gave her Ability to Praiſe, Magnifie and Glorifie his Holy Name, as before, to the refreſhing and comforting of Friends that were with her, and ſome that were no Friends in the Truth, ſaid, *Surely God was with her:* And ſhe did often ſignifie what great Joy and Peace ſhe felt, ſaying, *Surely never greater Joy can be deſired, than what I now feel.*

And at another time ſhe ſaid, *My Phyſician is come; O God! thou art my Phyſician, and thou haſt Cured me: I matter not for all the Phyſicians in the World; for I believed in thee, and thou haſt Healed me:* And ſhe ſaid, *My Soul is near ready to be offered up unto the Lord as a Living Sacrifice:* And took her leave of her Husband, and the reſt of her Friends, taking them by the hand, and kiſſed them, and bid them Farewel one by one; ſaying with a chearful Countenance, *I am near going*; ſhe ſaid, *This ſweet End will come; it makes my heart glad when I remember my end; It will be the Happieſt Hour that ever came to me:* She remembred her Love to Friends, and ſaid, *I deſire that Friends may be faithful.* And when it was thought that ſhe was in great Pain and very Sick, ſo that ſome ſaid, *It was very hard:* ſhe anſwered, *Nay, it is very*

very eaſie; for the Lord ſweetens it; Oh! thou Glorious God, thou haſt ſatisfied my Soul; I am filled with thy pure Preſence: O thou Keeper of Iſrael! *Praiſed and Magnified be thy holy Name forever, for thou art Worthy, and thy Mercies and Goodneſs are Endleſs: O Righteous God! O who would not but Praiſe thee! O that I may Praiſe thee while I have Breath and Being!* as indeed ſhe did; for even at the hour of her Departure ſhe praiſed the Lord very ſweetly; and ſaid, *Call in the Family*; they being called in, *Now*, ſaid ſhe, *Rejoyce Friends*; and reached forth her hand to her Husband, and holding him by the hand, made ſweet Melody in her Heart, to the Praiſe and Honour of the Lord, and to the great Comfort of Friends that were with her; and ſaid, *Dear God* (ſeveral times together, (being very Weak) *what ſhall I render unto thee for this Evening Sacrifice?* And ſo went on in Prayer and Praiſing the Lord, till her natural Strength failed; and then turned her face to the Pillow, and lay ſtill like an innocent Lamb, as indeed ſhe was, and ſaid no more, even as if ſhe had fallen aſleep, being the 13th of the 6th Moneth, 1679. in the Evening.

Many other ſweet and comfortable Words ſhe ſpake, which cannot be remembred to the full; but as ſhe lived an innocent Life, ſo was her Latter-end comfortable, and ſhe hath laid down her Head in Perfect Peace with the Lord her Maker and Redeemer.

Well, the Lord ſhall have the Praiſe, the Honour and the Glory, over all, and not any Creature, for he is worthy, as ſhe hath often ſaid, both in her Health, and alſo in her Sickneſs; for ſhe would alwayes lay the Creature Low, and God to have the Glory of his own Work, who is worthy, bleſſed over all forever.

And in the time of her Weakneſs ſeveral came to ſee her that were not Friends, before whom ſhe was moved to bear a faithful Teſtimony againſt their Hireling Prieſts; and in the Name of the Lord, and in his Living Power, did ſhe teſtifie, That they were out of the Right Way, and not ſent of God, and therefore did not profit the People at all: And ſhe cleared her ſelf, that it was not in the leaſt in Emnity or Ill-will that ſhe had towards the Prieſts, but that the Lord had made her a living Witneſs a-

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gainſt their Wayes and Covetous Practices; to which ſome of them anſwered, *That they did believe her, for they believed that ſhe wiſhe dall well.*

Witneſſes hereof, as being often preſent with her in the time of her Weakneß, and hearing theſe words, with more to the ſame Effect:

John Beck, *her Husband,*
Iſabel Gardner,
Elizabeth Ware,
Thomas Gardner,
Agnes Gardner,
John Dickinſon,
Elianor Dickinſon,
Elianor Corney; *With ſeveral others that might be mentioned.*

Concerning Sarah Beck, *my dear Wife, this Teſtimony I have to bear.*

THat ſhe was a Woman truly fearing God, and had a true and real Deſire after Truth and Righteouſneſs, and after the Welfare & Proſperity of it both in her ſelf, & all that profeſſed it; & that thoſe that knew it not might come to the Knowledge and Obedience of it: And after I came into acquaintance with her, and did move her to Marriage, Oh! how Solid and Weighty ſhe was! inſomuch, that ſhe would often ſay, *Marriage is a weighty Thing*; and did often deſire and breathe to the Lord, That we might proceed in it in the true Fear of the Lord, and then our Love and Unity would abound one towards the other, and ſo it did: And after we were married, her whole deſire and breathing was, that we might both be kept in the true Fear of the Lord in all our Undertakings, and in a living Sence of the Truth, and of the Goodneſs of the Lord towards us; and this Deſire being True and Real it was encreaſed, ſo that ſhe grew in the Gift or Meaſure that God had committed to her; and being faithful and obedient, ſo that ſhe came to have her Mouth opened to pray to God in our Family, whereby I was often refreſhed and broken into Tenderneſs, through the living operation of the Power and Gift of God in her, which did freſhly & livingly ſpring

in

in her many a time; ſo that a living Teſtimony and a good Remembrance remains upon my Heart continually concerning her: And often ſhe ſaid, *O! that we may be kept faithful to the End, that we may never Offend the Lord*; ſo that her Deſires, Breathings and Groanings were after the Lord Night and Day, that ſhe might not loſe her Peace with him, and this was alſo granted unto her; for in the time of her Sickneſs and outward Exerciſe, ſhe was patient and contented, though her Exerciſe was many times very ſharp, yet ſhe did patiently bear it; and ſaid many times, *It will be over*; and that *ſhe had true Peace with God*; and her Heart was full many times with Praiſes unto God, that he had kept her in Perfect Peace with him; and being kept in this Condition, ſhe was a Refreſhment to Friends when they came to viſit her. And when ſhe drew near her time of the giving up of her Natuarl Life, ſhe bid, *Call in the Family*; and ſhe took me by the hand, and then took her leave of us one by one, bidding us *Farewel*; and then ſhe prayed while one could underſtand what ſhe ſaid, then ſhe laid down her Head upon her Pillow, as though ſhe would have fallen aſleep, and ſo ſhe gave up her Natural Life without either Sigh or Groan, like an Innocent Lamb: and ſhe is gone to her Reſt with her Maker and Husband, who had betrothed her unto himſelf in Faithfulneſs.

JOHN BECK.

I have this to ſay concerning my dear Child *Sarah Beck*;

THat as ſhe lived an Innocent Life, ſo was her Latter-end Comfortable; and although it hath been a near Excerciſe to me, to part with ſuch a dear Child, yet truly can I ſay, that the Conſideration of her Everlaſting Well-being doth ſtay my Mind; and the Remembrance of the Love of God to her, doth often break my Heart; for in the time that ſhe lay on her Dying-Bed, I have ſeveral times found her very Tender, and much Broken; and when I had ask't her, *How ſhe was?* ſhe ſaid, *It is*

even

even the Love of God that breaks my Heart, and the Conſideration of his tender Dealings with me: And ſhe ſaid, to me, *Dear Mother, let nothing trouble thee, for there is nothing at all that troubles me:* So I can teſtifie to theſe Lines above-written; (for I was much with her in the time of her Weakneſs;) and we were often well refreſhed together with the Incomes of God's Love, then ſhe ſaid, *Oh this was a good Meeting! we have met with the Lord.*

Iſabel Gardner.

A Teſtimony lives in my Heart concerning my dear Siſter Sarah Beck, *the Wife of* John Beck, *whoſe former Name was* Sarah Gardner.

THis I can truly teſtifie, That ſhe was an inoncent Woman, and one that did truly fear the Lord in her day, and wiſhed the well-fare of all People; yea, even from a Child was her Heart ſet to ſeek the Lord, and the proſperity of his bleſſed Truth, which the Lord had made her with many more partakers of, bleſſed be his Holy Name for evermore: and I certainly know that it was her chiefeſt care, faithfully to ſerve the Lord and obey him in whatever he required of her. And it was ſometimes required of her by the Lord to exhort others to Faithfulneſs, and to improve the Gift or Talent which the Lord had committed to them; and the Lord did alwayes give her Power and Ability to perform faithfully whatſoever he required of her; for which ſhe did, as was her Duty, return the Praiſe and Honour unto him over all: Surely her Love was Univerſal. I have often heard her ſay, *Oh that all would come to the knowledge of the Truth, and live therein! Methinks I wiſh that all People would truly fear the Lord.* So far was ſhe from bearing any Ill-will towards any, that ſhe wiſhed the Everlaſting Well-fare of All, and it was her earneſt deſire unto the Lord, that he would preſerve her faithful unto himſelf, and that ſhe might live to his

Praiſe

Praiſe while ſhe lived; and as the Lord had put it into her Heart to ſeek true Peace with him, ſo (bleſſed be his Name) he preſerved her in the ſame to the end of her dayes.

For on her dying Bed ſhe did often ſignifie, that ſhe was content whether to live or dye, ſaying, That *ſhe had ſweet Peace with God*; and ſhe ſaid, *It makes my Heart glad when I remember my End, it will be the Happieſt Hour that ever came to me.* Yea, ſhe did often ſignifie what great Joy and Peace ſhe felt, ſinging Praiſes unto the Lord, and making ſweet Melody in her Heart, ſaying, *Oh thou Ocean, Ocean! Oh Fulneſs, Fulneſs! Oh! who would not but fear the Lord, and ſerve him all their dayes! Oh the Joy, that is laid up for the Righteous!*

And in all the time of her weakneſs of Body, ſhe was very patient and freely given up to ſubmit to the Will of God, ſaying, *O Lord, I will wait upon thee with patience, till my Change come; for ſurely thou art worthy to be waited upon! Oh thou God of my Life! Oh that I may Praiſe thee while I have Breath and Being!* Yea, that was her earneſt deſire, both for her ſelf and others, both in her Health and Sickneſs) as indeed I (with ſeveral more) was a Witneſs that ſhe had her deſire granted; for even at the Hour of her departure ſhe Praiſed the Lord very ſweetly; and the laſt Words that ſhe uttered, were in Prayer unto the Lord, and in praiſing of his Holy Name; and ſo paſſed away quietly as if ſhe had fallen aſleep.

And now although I with many more, unto whom the Lord made her Serviceable, am ſenſible of a great want of her; yet of this I do conclude, that though it be our Preſent Loſs, it is her Everlaſting Gain. So unto the Lord do I deſire to commit my Cauſe, who is able to ſupply all our Wants, and to make hard Things eaſie, as we truly eye him, and have our whole Dependance upon him, who is God over all, bleſſed forever.

Now what I have here written concerning my dear Siſter, the Lord knows my Heart, it is not in the leaſt to ſet her up above her place, as if ſhe had been able to do any thing of her ſelf, but as the Lord did enable her, as ſhe often confeſſed unto the Lord, *That of her ſelf ſhe was not able to do any thing, but all her Help and Ability was in the Lord alone.* So unto him be the Praiſe over

all, and not unto any Creature, for there is none that can perform any acceptable Service unto the Lord, but as he enables them; therefore unto him be the Honour and Praiſe of his own Work forever.

Agnes Gardner.

This is my Teſtimony concerning *Sarah Beck*;

THat I travelled with her in her Exerciſe, both in her Health and in her Sickneſs; and her Deſire was, That all might be Faithful to what was made manifeſt unto them; and in the time of her Weakneſs of Body, I can truly ſay, That I was ſenſible of her Exerciſe, and did bear a ſhare with her, and ſaid ſeveral times to her, That *I did believe that the Lord would turn it to her Joy, whether it was to live or dye*; and when the Time came, that the Lord comforted her, I can truly ſay, I was comforted with her; and ſo I can truly ſay, that I had ſuch Unity with her, that that which was her Joy was my Joy, and that which was her Sorrow was my Sorrow: So I can bear witneſs what is above-written, for I was much converſant with her in the time of her Weakneſs.

ELIANOR DICKINSON.

PEACE is ſown for the Righteous, and Joy and Gladneſs for the Upright in Heart; they are certainly Bleſſed and truly Happy who anſwer the holy Call of God by pure Obedience, as this our beloved Siſter hath done; for ſhe choſe the Truth to be her Path, and her Delight was in it even from a Child; and as ſhe grew in Years, ſo ſhe grew in the Truth, and by Faith therein was a true Witneſs of God's heavenly Word of Power manifeſted in her Boſom, by the Virtue of which her Soul was made alive by Chriſt, who is the Light, the Life, & the Power, by which ſhe came to be reconciled to God again, and ſo became a true Witneſs of his Name and Saving Health, and therein did extol his Praiſe and magnifie his Power, as ſhe hath often ſweetly done

done, not only in her Health but alſo in her Sickneſs, to the Refreſhment of many; and as ſhe lived an Innocent Harmeleſs Life, ſhe being of a mild Lamb-like Diſpoſition, ſo ſhe ended her Dayes in Innocency; and being Redeemed from the Earth, laid down her Head in Peace; and though her outward Body be gone to the Duſt, from whence it came, yet her Spirit is aſcended to God that gave it; and her living Teſtimony and good Savour that ſhe hath left, remain as Comfortable Memorials upon our Minds, deſiring, That we may ſo live, and ſo finiſh our Courſe, as ſhe hath done, knowing that all who endure to the End ſhall be ſaved. So being ſatisfied, and perſwaded, that many Friends are of the ſame Faith and Belief concerning her, I reſt with this Teſtimony in my Heart, which is here expreſſed.

Robert Barrawe.

My Teſtimony concerning my dear Siſter *Sarah Beck*, is;

THat ſhe was an Innocent Woman, and from her Childhood till her Dying-day, ſhe alwayes minded good things; for when ſhe was a Child, ſhe had an Eye to God, that ſhe did not offend him, and loved good Friends well; and as ſhe grew up in Years, ſo ſhe grew in the Truth of God, alwayes deſiring the Proſperity thereof; ſo that her Diligence exceeded many of her Equals in Years, and the Lord was with her, and ſhe grew in the Truth, and he put his Word in her Mouth, and ſhe faithfully declared it, as the Lord required her, whether as in a Publick Teſtimony amongſt Friends, or otherwiſe to warn People to Repent and Turn unto the Lord, to whom he did ſend her, and ſhe was faithful in all things as the Lord gave her Utterance; for ſhe was but a weak Inſtrument, but as the Lord was her Strength, unto whom ſhe would alwayes return Praiſe, for he alone was Worthy; for it was the Glory of God that was moſt in her Mind, and ſhe was wholly given up to ſerve him in all his Requirings, and his pure Fear was truly placed in her Heart, ſo that when the Lord did viſit her Body with Weakneſs, and as ſhe grew Weaker outwardly, ſo was her Strength renewed inwardly, and ſhe grew ſtronger and ſtronger in God, ſo that ſhe cryed

aloud

aloud (when she was very weak of Body, so that she was ready to faint away, as to outward appearance) and Praised and Magnified the Name of the Lord (as is testified in the foregoing Testimonies) and often exhorted Friends to Faithfulness: I was often with her in the time of her Sickness, and I was well refreshed with her; for when her Sickness did but a little abate then she would be Praying and Praising the Name of the Lord, often signifying to us, what Joy and Peace she did feel, to the Satisfaction of her Immortal Soul, and to the great Comfort of us her Friends, who had sweet Unity with her; and although it was a great Exercise to us, her near Relations, to part with her, being a living Instrument in the hand of God, by which we were well refreshed many a time; yet we can certainly say to the Joy of our Hearts, That it is her Everlasting Gain, and she hath laid down her Head in Perfect Peace; for I can truly say, That I am often well refreshed and comforted in the Remembrance of her, my dear Sister. Well, the Lord gives Life and Breath, and takes it away when he pleases, for he is Worthy, forever blessed be the Everlasting Name of our God, for he is Rich in Mercy and Endless in Loving-kindness; O! that we may alwayes dwell low before God, and return him Living Praises over all, for he alone is Worthy, saith my Soul.

Thomas Gardner.

THE END.